

## Community resources

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*courage is contagious*

## Viewing cable 08BOGOTA1223, GOC OK'S FRENCH MEDICAL MISSION FOR INGRID--AWAITS \

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#08BOGOTA1223**.

| Reference ID                 | Created                          | Released                         | Classification               | Origin                         |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <a href="#">08BOGOTA1223</a> | <a href="#">2008-04-02 21:05</a> | <a href="#">2011-08-30 01:44</a> | <a href="#">CONFIDENTIAL</a> | <a href="#">Embassy Bogota</a> |

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.elespectador.com/wikileaks>

VZCZCXYZ0002  
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHBO #1223/01 0932105  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O 022105Z APR 08  
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2203  
INFO RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE 8123  
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE 0178  
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE 6046  
RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE 1444  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 1271  
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE 6700  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RHMFIUU/FBI WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RHMFISS/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE

148293 2008-04-02 21:05:00 08BOGOTA1223 Embassy Bogota CONFIDENTIAL 08BOGOTA1178 VZCZCXYZ0002\  
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RHMFIUU/FBI WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE\  
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE\  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 001223 \

SIPDIS \

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/02/2018 \

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SUBJECT: GOC OK'S FRENCH MEDICAL MISSION FOR INGRID--AWAITS \

FARC RESPONSE \

REF: BOGOTA 1178 \

Classified By: Political Counselor John Creamer \

Reason 1.4 (b and d) \

SUMMARY \

1. (C) President Uribe approved a request from French \

President Sarkozy to deploy a medical "humanitarian mission" \

to Colombia to save FARC hostage Ingrid Betancourt. Uribe \

did not provide details, but said the GOC would halt military \

operations once the French provided the coordinates for the \

operation. The ICRC confirmed it is not participating in \

the mission, since there has been no response from the FARC; \

they would participate only with approval from all parties. \

XXXXXXXXXXXX told us Swiss official Jean \

Pierre Gontard reported on March 28 that Betancourt is alive \

but refusing to eat. Sarkozy reportedly sent a private \

message to the FARC that the group would remain on terrorism \

lists "forever" if Betancourt dies. End summary. \

URIBE APPROVES FRENCH HUMANITARIAN MISSION \

2. (U) President Alvaro Uribe approved on April 1 a request \

from President Nicolas Sarkozy to deploy a French medical \

"humanitarian mission" to Colombia to treat FARC \

hostages--most notably Ingrid Betancourt. The French \

reportedly deployed a hospital plane to the region to be \

ready for the mission. Uribe announced immediately after \

taking a phone call from Sarkozy that the GOC would \

facilitate the French humanitarian mission due to numerous \

reports on Betancourt's failing health (reftel). Uribe also \

said the GOC would "suspend all military actions" as soon as \

it received coordinates for the French mission. Sarkozy \

expressed his gratitude for the quick approval. \

ICRC AWAITS FARC RESPONSE \

3. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX told us the ICRC is not participating in the French medical \

mission, because there has been no response so far from the \

FARC. For security reasons, the ICRC will not support \

missions without the approval of all parties involved. \

XXXXXXXXXXXX added that the French and Swiss hope to use the \

mission to re-establish high-level contacts with the FARC, \

but she questioned whether a high-profile, public effort was \

the best way to achieve this. \

GOC MOTIVATIONS \

4. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX told us decree 880 offering a GOC release of FARC prisoners as part \

of a de facto humanitarian exchange reflected GOC concern \

that Ingrid may be dead or dying, and not renewed prospects \

for obtaining her freedom. The GOC offer was not linked to \

new efforts by Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez or recently \

released FARC hostage and former Senator Luis Eladio Perez. \

XXXXXXXXXXXX said the GOC issued the decree to increase \

international pressure on the FARC and to deflect blame if \

she dies. \

5. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX said the GOC also wanted to see how the FARC's \

leadership and decision making process would react after \

Secretariat member Raul Reyes' death. In particular, the GOC \

\  
SIPDIS \  
wanted to see if the FARC would maintain demands for a \  
demilitarized zone (despeje). XXXXXXXXXXXXX speculated that the \  
lack of an immediate FARC response reiterating its despeje \  
demand might indicate the GOC is dealing with a new, if not \  
kinder and gentler, FARC. \  
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WAITING FOR FARC RESPONSE \  
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¶6. (C) The FARC has not yet responded to the French request, \  
but XXXXXXXXXXXXX told us Jean Pierre Gontard (Swiss contact with the FARC) claimed to have \  
heard from the FARC on March 28 that Ingrid was alive but \  
refusing to eat. The FARC are reportedly concerned about her \  
attitude and declining health. XXXXXXXXXXXXX said Raul Reyes had \  
\

been Gontard's main FARC contact, but added that the \  
Secretariat "owed Gontard a lot," since he arranged for \  
\

SIPDIS \  
family members of Alfonso Cano, Rodrigo Granda, and Reyes to \  
live in Lausanne. \  
\

¶7. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXXX said he met on April 1 with French \  
Ambassador Jean Michel Marlaud to discuss Betancourt, but \  
noted that the French revealed no new information about her \  
condition. They believe her refusal to eat may be a \  
calculated risk to pressure the group to release her. The \  
French talked "in the abstract" about an international \  
medical mission to visit Ingrid, but did not reveal any \  
definite plans. Marlaud said Sarkozy had sent a private \  
message to the FARC that France would support the group's \  
inclusion on the EU terrorist list "forever" if Ingrid died \  
in FARC captivity. XXXXXXXXXXXXX said Marlaud made it clear the \  
French believe only Chavez can obtain Betancourt's freedom. \  
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BROWNFIELD \  
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